

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for collection of an animal urine specimen comprising:
 - a) a plastic specimen cup with an open top to receive and hold a urine specimen;
 - b) a plastic lid removably securable to the cup to close the top of the cup after collection of the specimen; and
 - c) a holder having an operative position with
 - i) a center extension member with upper and lower ends,
 - ii) a cup holder extending forwardly from the lower end of the extension member, the cup holder and extension member being connected with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material comprising a wire structure to enable manual repositioning of the extension member and the cup holder in relation to one another to the user's convenience, the cup holder having
 - a) a downwardly extending opening slidably receiving the cup in an upright position, and
 - b) rearwardly facing, forwardly facing, and oppositely facing side structure positioned to prevent the cup from slipping out the front, back and sides of the opening, and
 - iii) a handle extending from the upper end of the extension member to enable manual positioning of the specimen cup in said upright position under the animal from which the specimen is to be collected.
2. (Original) The device as defined in claim 1 in which the cup holder further includes an upwardly facing surface structure, and the cup further includes a downwardly facing surface structure supported by the upwardly facing surface structure of the cup holder when the cup is positioned in the opening.
3. (Original) The device as defined in claim 2 in which the cup and cup holder include complimentary flange structures establishing said surface structures, and the flange structure of the cup holder extends at least substantially uninterrupted around said opening and establishes said rearwardly facing, forwardly facing, and oppositely facing side structure.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~ in which the entire extension member is formed with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material comprising a wire structure to enable manual reshaping of the holder to the user's convenience.

6. (Original) The device as defined in claim 5 in which the holder is formed with unitary wire construction.

7. (Original) The device as defined in claim 1 in which the holder is formed with unitary molded plastic construction.

8. (Original) The device as defined in claim 1 in which the handle extends rearwardly from the upper end of the extension member with an inside angle less than 180 degrees.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for collection of an animal urine specimen comprising:
- a) a plastic specimen cup with an open top to receive and hold a urine specimen and with a flange structure having downwardly facing surface structure;
 - b) a plastic lid removably securable to the cup to close the open top after collection of the specimen; and
 - c) a holder having an operative position with
 - i) a center extension member with upper and lower ends,
 - ii) a cup holder extending forwardly from the lower end of the extension member,
 - a) the cup holder having a downwardly extending opening slidably receiving the cup in an upright position and having a flange structure with an upwardly facing surface structure supporting the downwardly facing surface structure of the cup holder when the cup is positioned in said opening, the flange structure of the cup holder extending at least substantially uninterrupted around said opening and being sized to maintain the cup in a substantially fixed position in said opening, and
 - iii) a handle extending from the upper end of the extension member to enable manual positioning of the specimen cup in said upright position under the animal from which the specimen is to be collected,
 - d) the holder being formed with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material connecting at least the extension member and the cup holder to enable manual repositioning of the extension member and the cup holder in relation to one another to the user's convenience.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The device as defined in claim 9 in which the entire extension member is formed with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material to enable manual reshaping of the holder to the user's convenience.
13. (Original) The device as defined in claim 12 in which the holder is formed with material including a semi-rigid yet manually bendable wire-type structure.
14. (Original) The device as defined in claim 9 in which the handle extends rearwardly from the upper end of the extension member with an inside angle less than 180 degrees.
15. (Currently Amended) A device for collection of an animal urine specimen comprising:
- a) a plastic specimen cup with an open top to receive and hold a urine specimen, and with an outwardly extending flange;
 - b) a plastic lid removably securable to the cup to close the open top after collection of the specimen; and
 - c) a holder having an operative position with
 - i) a center extension member with upper and lower ends,
 - ii) a cup holder extending forwardly from the lower end of the extension member establishing an angle of between approximately 90 to 150 degrees therebetween,
 - iii) the cup holder having an at least substantially closed flange structure
 - a) establishing an opening slidably receiving the cup and maintaining the cup in a substantially fixed position therein, and
 - b) supporting the flange of the specimen cup to maintain the cup in an upright position when the cup is positioned in the opening; and
 - d) a handle extending from the upper end of the extension member to enable positioning of the specimen cup in said upright position under the animal from which the specimen is to be collected, the overall length of holder and handle being approximately 20 inches.

16. (Original) A kit for collection of an animal urine specimen comprising:
- a) a plastic specimen cup with an open top to receive and hold the urine specimen;
 - b) a plastic lid removably securable to the cup to close the top of the cup after collection of the specimen;
 - c) a substantially flat holder having
 - i) a center extension member with first and second ends,
 - ii) a cup holder extending from the first end of the extension member, the cup holder having an opening sized to slidably receive the cup, and
 - iii) a handle extending from the second end of the extension member; and
 - d) a package locating the holder, the cup and the lid in confined relation to one another for shipping, storage and display purposes;
 - e) the holder being formed with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material connecting the extension member and the cup holder to enable manual repositioning of the extension member and cup holder in relation to one another when removed from the package to establish an operative position with:
 - i) the extension member in a generally upright to rearwardly extending position with said first and second ends establishing lower and upper ends, respectively,
 - ii) the cup holder extending forwardly from the lower end of the extension member at an inside angle of between approximately 90 to 150 degrees therebetween, and
 - iii) the opening in the cup holder in an downwardly extending position receiving and holding the cup in an upright position for manually positioning of the cup under the animal from which the urine specimen is to be collected.
17. (Original) The kit as defined in claim 16 in which the entire extension member is formed with semi-rigid yet manually bendable material to enable manual reshaping of the holder to the user's convenience when removed from the package.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for collection of an animal urine specimens comprising:
- a) providing
 - i) a plastic specimen cup with an open top to receive and hold the urine specimen,
 - ii) a plastic lid removably securable to the cup to close the top of the cup after collection of the specimen, and
 - iii) a semi-rigid yet manually bendable holder comprising a wire structure and having an operative position with
 - a) a center extension member with upper and lower ends,
 - b) a cup holder extending forwardly from the lower end of the extension member and removably carrying the cup, and
 - c) a handle extending from the upper end of the extension member;
 - b) with the holder, manually positioning the cup in an upright position opening upwardly under the animal;
 - c) collecting the urine specimen in the cup located under the animal while it urinates;
 - d) withdrawing the cup holder and cup from under the animal; and
 - e) closing the cup with the lid to contain the urine specimen therein.
19. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 18 in which ~~the holder is formed with a semi-rigid yet manually bendable material section, and the method further comprises reshaping the holder at said material section for the user's convenience prior to the positioning the cup under the animal.~~
20. (New) The device as defined in claim 13 in which the holder is formed with unitary wire construction.
21. (New) The device as defined in claim 9 in which the holder is formed with unitary molded plastic construction.